

HARMONY TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

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"Living Together in Harmony"

MINUTES

HARMONY TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

08 July 2003

Present: Karen Buckley, Abigail Crouse, Dave Bruckman, Tim Sullivan, Bill Rosebrock., Brett Bragin, Jim Wright (1st alternate) and Michael Hedlund (2nd alternate).

Absent: Harry Cosimano

I. Opening:

Meeting opened in accordance with the Sunshine Law and Pledge of Allegiance at 1950 hours.

II. Minutes: The minutes of the June 10, 2003 meeting were reviewed. A few minor typographical errors were noted and will be corrected. On a motion by Ms. Crouse, seconded by Mr. Sullivan, the minutes for June were approved, with all in favor.

III. Correspondence: The following correspondence was received:

A) A letter from the Warren/Northampton regional air quality advisory panel was received, inviting a member of the Harmony Twp. environmental commission to participate. Depending on the time commitment required, Mr. Sullivan might be interested in attending the meetings. We will inquire if a second environmental commission member can be substituted for Mr. Sullivan (if necessary).

B) Received a copy of a letter from the NJDEP to Rotundi & Sons Recycling regarding their general approval modification and outstanding requirements of general approval.

C) Received a copy of a letter from the Warren County Freeholders thanking the NJDEP for their diligence in the permit review process for the coal-fired power plant expansion in Lower Mount Bethel Township in Pennsylvania.

D) Received a brochure regarding in-home water filtration devices available for purchase from the Shaklee Company.

IV. New Business:

A) Chairwoman Buckley e-mailed two pieces of information on the use of sludge as fertilizer issue to all members; a New York Times article and an article from the NJ Conservation Foundation. The recent proposal put forth by the State Agricultural Development Committee (SADC) that would allow the use of Exceptional Quality (EQ) sludge (a.k.a. "biosolids") on farmland preserved under the State farmland preservation program as well as other public lands (e.g., Green Acres parcels) was discussed. It was noted the Warren County Environmental Commission is drafting a resolution against the use of sludge on preserved farmland/publicly owned lands.

Mr. Bragin is to draft Resolution #2003-03 to show that the Harmony Township Environmental Commission supports the Warren County Environmental Commission Resolution which opposes the use of sludge on farms preserved under the Farmland Preservation Program and other public land. All members (except Mr. Hedlund, who as 2nd alternate did not vote) voted in favor of drafting such a resolution, with the following comments added to the discussion:

Ms. Crouse wanted to point out that “preserved farmland” is not publicly owned, the farm is still owned by the farmer, and that this issue is due to the State & Federal government attempting to push the use of sludge.

B) Compilation of Environmental Issues in the Township – Ms. Buckley has recently received several telephone calls from prospective property buyers requesting information regarding known environmental problems within the township. The issues of what type of information and in what form the information should be provided were discussed. It was agreed that information of this nature should be compiled by the environmental commission, and provided to the Township Clerk, so that when these types of requests are received, the Clerk could just mail out a packet of information to those requesting it. Mr. Bragin and Mr. Rosebrock will work on putting this information together for the Commission to review.

V. Old Business

A) Wild & Scenic Grant – We are being considered for a \$4,000 grant. Two additional questions were asked of the Commission. If we are successful in obtaining the grant, it will be used to update the Township Natural Resource Inventory.

B) The committee on revising the wording of the Wild & Scenic language in the Lower Delaware Management Plan will be sending its’ suggested changes to Bill Sharp of the National Park Service. It should be voted on at the next Township Committee meeting.

C) The \$1,000 grant available from the Warren County Environmental Commission was discussed. The application deadline is August 15th, and the grant will be awarded in October. The grant is for a one-year period. Mr. Bragin motioned that the grant should be used to reduce the cost of well water testing (for volatile organics and fecal coliform) for the township residents that sign up for water testing at Harmony Community Day. Mr. Sullivan seconded the motion. All were in favor.

D) Dowel/Centex Homes – The meeting schedule for township committee meetings on this topic was distributed. The Township will be hiring environmental experts to represent the Township in this matter. We need to put all of the environmental commission comments on the EIS together to be read into the record at the September 3rd planning board meeting.

The traffic study previously handed out is being revised. Therefore it was not discussed.

E) Wind Farm on Scott’s Mountain – Nothing new to report. However, a new wind power ordinance had a 1st reading at the Township Committee meeting.

There being no further business, the July meeting of the Harmony Township Environmental Commission was adjourned at 2140 hours.

Respectfully submitted,

A. Brett Bragin, Secretary